

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO CONVEY CERTAIN PROPERTY TO SOLANO COUNTY, CALIF., AND TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN OTHER PROPERTY IN SOLANO COUNTY

JULY 16, 1959. - Ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 697]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 697) to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to acquire certain real property in the county of Solano, Calif, to transfer certain real property to the county of Solano, Calif, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 4, delete "8.26" and insert in lieu thereof, "78.26".

The purpose of this amendment is to correct a printer's error.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill, H.R. 697, would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to acquire certain land in Solano County, Calif, on which to relocate certain Government-owned railroad tracks serving the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in order that he might then convey the property on which the tracks are presently located to the county of Solano upon payment by the county of all expenses incurred in acquisition of the property, and all expenses incurred in relocating the tracks.

BACKGROUND OF THE BILL

The bill will permit Solano County, Calif, to widen its highway adjacent to the present railroad right-of-way, and the Navy will continue to have the use of a railroad spur to the Mare Island Shipyard, Mare Island, Calif.

Substantial advantages will accrue to the Government as a result of this proposal. It will shorten the length of the railroad spur by some 7,000 feet, thus reducing maintenance and operation costs, and

will eliminate several private crossings which delay train operations and present an accident potential. The trackage to be abandoned under this proposal is in very poor condition and would have to be rebuilt within 2 years at an estimated cost to the Government of \$135,000.

The 0.44 acre of land proposed to be acquired by the Government has been appraised at \$38,939. The land to be conveyed by the Government under the proposal consists of an easement over 0.18 acre and fee title in 3.73 acres and is valued at \$34,200.

FISCAL DATA

Enactment into law of this measure will not involve the expenditure of any Federal funds which will not be the subject of reimbursement to the United States. The legislation contemplates the expenditures of Government funds for the acquisition of the land and for the relocation of the tracks subject to reimbursement by Solano County.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Neither the Bureau of the Budget nor the Department of Defense has any objection to this bill as is evidenced by letter dated February 11, 1959, from Secretary of the Navy Gates which letter is set out below and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 11, 1959.

HON. CARL VINSON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H.R. 697, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to acquire certain real property in the county of Solano, Calif., to transfer certain real property to the county of Solano, Calif., and for other purposes. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Navy the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

H.R. 697 would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to acquire certain real property in Solano County, Calif., on which to relocate certain railroad tracks, in order that he might then convey the property on which the tracks are presently located to the county of Solano upon payment of all expenses incurred in acquisition of the property, and all expenses incurred in relocating the tracks.

The proposed bill would allow Solano County to widen their highway adjacent to the present railroad right-of-way and still allow the Navy continued use of a railroad spur to the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Mare Island, Calif. The relocation of the present railroad spur will not be detrimental to the Mare Island Naval Shipyard and would be of benefit to the public.

The land interests involved have a roughly equivalent value with the land to be acquired by the Government being slightly more valuable. The 0.44 acre proposed to be acquired by the Government has been appraised by the county of Solano for \$38,939. The land proposed to be conveyed by the Government to the county consisting of an easement over 0.18 acre and fee title in 3.73 acres has been appraised by the county for \$34,200. These values have been reviewed and are concurred in by Navy appraisers.

The net effect of the proposal is to shorten the length of the railroad line from the Mare Island Shipyard to the interchange with the Southern Pacific Co. by approximately 7,000 feet. The approximately 9,000 feet of trackage, which would be abandoned under this proposal, is in very poor condition and would have to be rebuilt within 2 years at an estimated cost of \$135,000. Along this trackage are 26 private crossings which delay train operation and present an ever-present danger of a costly accident. Thus, there are substantial benefits to the Government in reducing operating and maintenance costs.

A review of the descriptions of the land to be conveyed to the Government, contained in subject bill discloses that parcels 1 and 2 are not contiguous but are separated by Broadway, also known as County Road No. 85. The bill should be amended to provide that the Government may acquire a permanent easement for railroad purposes across this road in such a manner as will connect parcels 1 and 2. It is therefore recommended that H.R. 697 be amended by inserting the following words at the end of section 3, on page 5:

"PARCEL NUMBERED 4

"A permanent easement for railroad purposes beginning at a point 15.00 feet easterly and at right angles to engineers station 130+78.26, said engineers station being in the center of the existing United States Navy railroad tracks; thence along a curve to the right of radius 286.56 feet, central angle 42 degrees 01 minutes 06 seconds length 215.03 feet, to a point on the westerly right-of-way line of Solano County Road Numbered 1070, said point being the true point of beginning; thence along said right-of-way line north 11 degrees 45 minutes 08 seconds west 36.28 feet; thence along a curve to the right of radius 316.56 feet central angle 17 degrees 34 minutes 24 seconds length 97.19 feet to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of Solano County Road Number 1070; thence along said right-of-way line south 11 degrees 45 minutes 08 seconds east 31.14 feet; thence along a curve to the left of radius 286.56 feet central angle 19 degrees 50 minutes 59 seconds length 99.28 feet to the true point of beginning."

H.R. 697 contemplates the expenditure of Government funds for the acquisition of some or all of the land required for the relocation of the tracks and for some or all of the expenses involved in such relocation, subject to reimbursement by the county. In order to assure the reimbursement to the appropriation from which such funds will be paid, it is recommended that the following be added to the end of section 2 of subject bill: "Any public works funds appropriated now, or hereafter available to the Department of the Navy, may be obligated for this purpose. Reimbursements to the Government on

account of payments made pursuant to this act shall be made to the appropriation against which such payments were charged."

The Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense, recommends the enactment of H.R. 697, subject to the above changes.

The enactment of H.R. 697 would result in no cost to the Government.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN S. MCCAIN, Jr.,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Chief of Legislative Liaison
(For the Secretary of the Navy).

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